

CASE STUDY

BANKS PENINSULA SCALING

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INTRODUCTION

From February to August 2022, Abseil Access carried out inspections and stabilisation works across Goughs Bay, Hickory Bay, and Menzies Bay on the Banks Peninsula in Christchurch. The client required remediation after heavy rainfall triggered multiple rockfalls and slips along key access roads. The works were completed under the oversight of the consultant, in close collaboration with the client, to ensure appropriate site-specific solutions.

PROCESS

Access was established from the nearest roads, with tracks cut to reach the slips where required. Initial site inspections and assessments were undertaken with input from the client to confirm the most suitable actions. For safety, a road-based spotter was deployed during operations. Works involved de-vegetation and rock scaling of unstable areas, along with the use of airbags to dislodge larger boulders.

In cases where large boulders posed a risk to properties, they were deconstructed by drilling blast holes and using low-velocity explosives to break them into smaller, manageable pieces for removal or relocation. Temporary catch fences were also installed in critical areas to provide additional protection. All major boulders were photographed and documented, with reports submitted to the client for review and confirmation of required follow-up actions.

OUTCOME

The project successfully stabilised several high-risk areas on the Banks Peninsula, significantly reducing the immediate rockfall hazards along the access roads. Collaboration with the client ensured tailored solutions were applied at each site, balancing safety and efficiency. Detailed reporting and quality assurance provided accurate records of site conditions, completed works, and recommended follow-up actions.

